



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Defence Aviation Safety Authority



Defence Aviation Safety Authority

Capability First, Safety Always

ADVISORY CIRCULAR

AC 002/2026 v1.0

TRANSITION TO DASR NTS

BP52777137

V1.0 – March 2026

An Advisory Circular is issued by the Authority to promulgate important information to the Defence Aviation community, but does not mandate any action. This includes informing the community on aviation safety / airworthiness matters, information that enhances compliance understanding for existing regulation, or policy guidance for aviation issues not yet regulated that requires further understanding.

Audience

This Advisory Circular (AC) applies to organisations and personnel across the Defence Aviation Safety Community (henceforth referred to as the Community).

DASR NTS requirements extend beyond aircrew to all personnel directly involved in the application of aviation, including:

- Aircrew
- Remote Crew operating under organisational approvals (OpSpec/UASOP)
- Aircraft Controllers (both Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) and Air Battlespace Mangers (ABM)).

Purpose

This AC provides guidance to Defence aviation organisations on transition to the Defence Aviation Safety Regulation (DASR) Non-Technical Skills (NTS) framework. It clarifies compliance requirements, identifies key transition milestones, and outlines Defence Aviation Safety Authority (DASA) monitoring and assurance expectations.

This AC supersedes AC 003/2022 and supports the progressive implementation of DASR NTS, while AIRCREW.55 remains the interim governing requirement for NTS during the transition period.

Further information

For further information on this AC, contact the Directorate of Aviation Operations (DAVNOPS) Flight Operations team at DASA.ftops@defence.gov.au.

Legacy AIRCREW.55 regulation is available on the DASA Internet page via Policy and Guidance → DASR → Version History. An extract of the legacy regulation is located within Enclosure 1 of ARA 48-2025 – Deferral of implementation of DASR Non-Technical Skills (see reference list).

Status

This AC will remain current until cancelled by DASA.

Version	Date Approved	Approved By	Details
1.0	March 2026	GPCAPT N Pausina DAVNOPS	Initial release

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1 Reference material

1.1 Acronyms

The acronyms and abbreviations used in this AC are listed in the table below.

Acronym	Description
AM	Accountable Manager
AMC	Acceptable Means of Compliance
ASIR	Aviation Safety Investigation Report
DASA	Defence Aviation Safety Authority
DASM	Defence Aviation Safety Manual
DASR	Defence Aviation Safety Regulation
DFSB	Defence Flight Safety Bureau
DASP	Defence Aviation Safety Program
FMS	Flight Management System
GM	Guidance Material
GR	General Requirements
HF	Human Factors
NTS	Non-Technical Skills
NTSF	Non-Technical Skills Facilitator
NTST	Non-Technical Skills Trainer
SMS	Safety Management System

1.2 Definitions

Terms that have specific meaning within this AC are defined in the table below.

Term	Definition
NTS Trainer	Personnel who have undergone specialised Human Factors and NTS training to ensure sufficient depth of knowledge to undertake all aspects of NTS program management and training delivery.
NTS Facilitator	Personnel that enable NTS learning through guiding participants to NTS insights through facilitated discussions, interactions, structured exercises and experiences.
Initial knowledge-based training	Provides Defence Aviation personnel with the theoretical background on Aviation NTS and supports the development of practical knowledge relevant to skilled performance.
Conversion or endorsement NTS bridging training	Developed and delivered by organisations providing conversion or endorsement programs. It contextualises the NTS theories and concepts introduced during initial knowledge-based NTS training, aligning them with specific tasks, applicable processes, and the Aviation System in use.
Periodic NTS bridging training	Developed and delivered by organisations using topical and emerging NTS issues relevant to the organisation's operating context. This training is typically informal and conducted in a facilitated group setting, with an emphasis on interaction and open communication among personnel.
Skills-based training	NTS skills-based training ensures that personnel demonstrate NTS during Flight Management System (FMS) or equivalent training and assessment events. It also ensures personnel are provided dedicated NTS training that includes both normal and non-normal situations, focusing on improving NTS performance.
Continuation knowledge-based training	Training that refreshes, advances, and assesses NTS to ensure individuals maintain up-to-date knowledge.
Non-Technical Skills Trainer (NTST) training	Training designed to support personnel undertaking the NTST role.

1.3 References

- 1.3.1 [AC 003/2022 – Changes to the Structure of Defence Aviation Safety Policy](#)
- 1.3.2 [DASR NTS](#)
- 1.3.3 [Aviation Safety Investigation Report \(ASIR\) – 6th Aviation Regiment – NHIndustries MRH-90 Taipan A40-040, Spatial Disorientation Leading to Controlled Flight Into Terrain \(CFIT\)](#)
- 1.3.4 DASM [\(BP41276179\)](#)
- 1.3.5 [AIRCREW.55 – Non-Technical Skills Training and Assessment](#)
- 1.3.6 [DASR Summary of Change – 29 Feb 2024](#)
- 1.3.7 Project – 2024-07 – Updates to DFSA Human Factors (HF) and Non-Technical Skills (NTS) Training and Education Products [\(BP46297798\)](#)
- 1.3.8 ARA 48-2025 – Deferral of implementation of DASR Non-Technical Skills [\(BP52230020\)](#)

Unless specified otherwise, all regulation references in this AC refer to the Defence Aviation Safety Regulation (DASR).

2 Introduction

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 DASA released DASR NTS in February 2024 with an implementation period of 12 months.
- 2.1.2 The MRH-90 Taipan ASIR (Reference 1.3.3), recommended that DASA review both the implementation plan and the application of independent safety assurance for DASR NTS in order to improve the interpretation and application of AMC and GM by regulated entities, and to better address NTS-related safety risks in the operating environment.
- 2.1.3 In response to the ASIR recommendations, DASA has:
 - 2.1.3.1 developed an implementation plan for DASR NTS; this AC forms part of that broader plan
 - 2.1.3.2 deferred DASR NTS compliance to February 2027 to provide Defence aviation organisations time to prepare for compliance.
- 2.1.4 This AC outlines the key activities that AM organisations should consider over the next 12 months as they prepare and implement appropriate training and assessment arrangements, to achieve compliance with DASR NTS.

2.2 Current and future states

- 2.2.1 DASR AIRCREW.55 remains the extant regulation for NTS training, with existing organisational programs continuing under legacy requirements.
- 2.2.2 DASR NTS will replace AIRCREW.55 from February 2027. DFSB will release updated NTS training and education products in 2026 to support organisations in developing DASR NTS compliant solutions during the transition period.

3 Oversight and Timeline

3.1 Assurance and Compliance:

- 3.1.1 DAVNOPS is available to support AM Organisations in achieving compliance during the transition period, through review of transition plans and the provision of feedback.
- 3.1.2 Oversight and Enforcement of the new DASR NTS regulation will commence from February 2027. DAVNOPS encourages AM organisations to:
 - 3.1.2.1 work toward compliance ahead of this deadline
 - 3.1.2.2 provide updates to DAVNOPS on their progression of transition to DASR NTS throughout 2026.
 - 3.1.2.3 develop a skills-based implementation rollout plan as part of their overall transition activities.
- 3.1.3 DAVNOPS is running monthly town hall meetings to provide a forum for the community to seek information, share progress, and raise any questions during the transition period.

4 Transitioning to DASR NTS

4.1 Education and Training

4.1.1 The table below identifies the available resources, Custodian, and Delivery Authorities (for NTST and NTSF) available to each NTS Training Element:

Table 1 – NTS Training Elements, their Resources, Custodians and Delivery Authorities

Element	Available Resource(s)	Custodian & Delivery Org.	Delivery Qual.
Initial knowledge-based training	DFSB Aviation Non-Technical Skills (NTS) Foundation Course	DFSB	NTST/NTSF ¹
Conversion or endorsement NTS bridging training	Organisation-developed conversion or endorsement training programs	AM Org	NTST/NTSF ¹
Periodic NTS bridging training	DFSB Aviation NTST Awareness Packages (adapted and contextualised as required)	AM Org	NTST/NTSF
Skills-based training	Integrated within FMS or equivalent training and assessment activities	AM Org	NTST
Continuation knowledge-based training ²	DFSB online Aviation NTS Continuation eAssessment.	DFSB	NTST
Non-Technical Skills Trainer (NTST) training ²	DFSB NTST Course or a course	DFSB ³	NTST

¹ NTSF with Defence-recognised instructor qualification may deliver the training if risk managed IAW DASR SMS.

² Continuation knowledge-based training and NTST training are delivered via DFSB-managed products or approved equivalent arrangements.

³ DFSB is the custodian of the NTST course. However, Accountable Manager Organisations can deliver NTST training.

- 4.1.2 DFSB will commence delivering the new NTST Course in Q1 2026 and will initially target personnel with key roles in the implementation and delivery of skills-based NTS training within their organisations. The training will be exportable and suitable for delivery by NTSTs. NTST Course commencement will coincide with the release of the DFSB Aviation Non-Technical Skills: Essentials for Trainers guidebook.
- 4.1.3 The DFSB Aviation NTS eAssessment and Aviation NTS Awareness Packages will be available from late Q2 2026. Organisations are encouraged to have personnel complete the Aviation NTS Continuation eAssessment starting in Q3 2026 to support their transition to DASR NTS compliance before February 2027.
- 4.1.4 The DFSB NTST Course is located on the DASA Sharepoint Site. The latest version of the schedule is listed in Table 2.

Table 2 – DFSB NTST Course Schedule 2026

Course Session	Location	Course Dates	Course Capacity
NTST 01/26	HMAS Harman	24-25 Mar 2026	26 students
NTST 02/26	HMAS Harman	25-26 Aug 2026	26 students
NTST 03/26	HMAS Harman	03-04 Nov 2026	26 students

- 4.1.5 DFSB will provide further details regarding these courses, including nomination details, on the DFSB Training Opportunities within the Education and Promotion section of the DASA SharePoint Website.

4.2 Change Managers

- 4.2.1 Suitably experienced personnel should lead the development and transition to theory-based and operationally contextualised NTS training. Organisations may wish to consider individuals with existing instructional, operational, or human performance experience to act as change managers during transition.
- 4.2.2 It is recommended that Units develop a unit or platform transition plan that outlines the introduction and embedding of NTS training and assessment into operations. As an example, such a plan might:

- 4.2.2.1 identify new training needs and applicable personnel
- 4.2.2.2 consider possible NTS change managers, and where appropriate, nominate them for DFSB NTST Courses
- 4.2.2.3 describe possible implementation approaches for the four elements of NTS training, including indicative milestones, assurance touchpoints, and opportunities for operational validation.

4.3 Sample Schedule:

4.3.1 Defence aviation organisations may find it helpful to align their transition to DASR NTS through the milestones outlined in the sample schedule below. As organisations progress through these stages, they are encouraged to communicate their progress to DAVNOPS. Table 3 provides examples of Key Milestones that could be included within AM Organisation Transition Plans.

Table 3 – Example Key Milestones for Transition Plan

Milestone	Key Dates	Details
NTST 01/2026	24-27 Mar 2026	Suitable candidate for Change Managers to be nominated
NTS Training Scheme Implemented	Sep 2026	Embed bridging and skills-based NTS training and assessment Action of embed bridging and skills based NTS is being delivered. Products developed and training commenced.
Compliance with Regulation	Feb 2027	Full DASR NTS compliance; AIRCREW.55 withdrawn